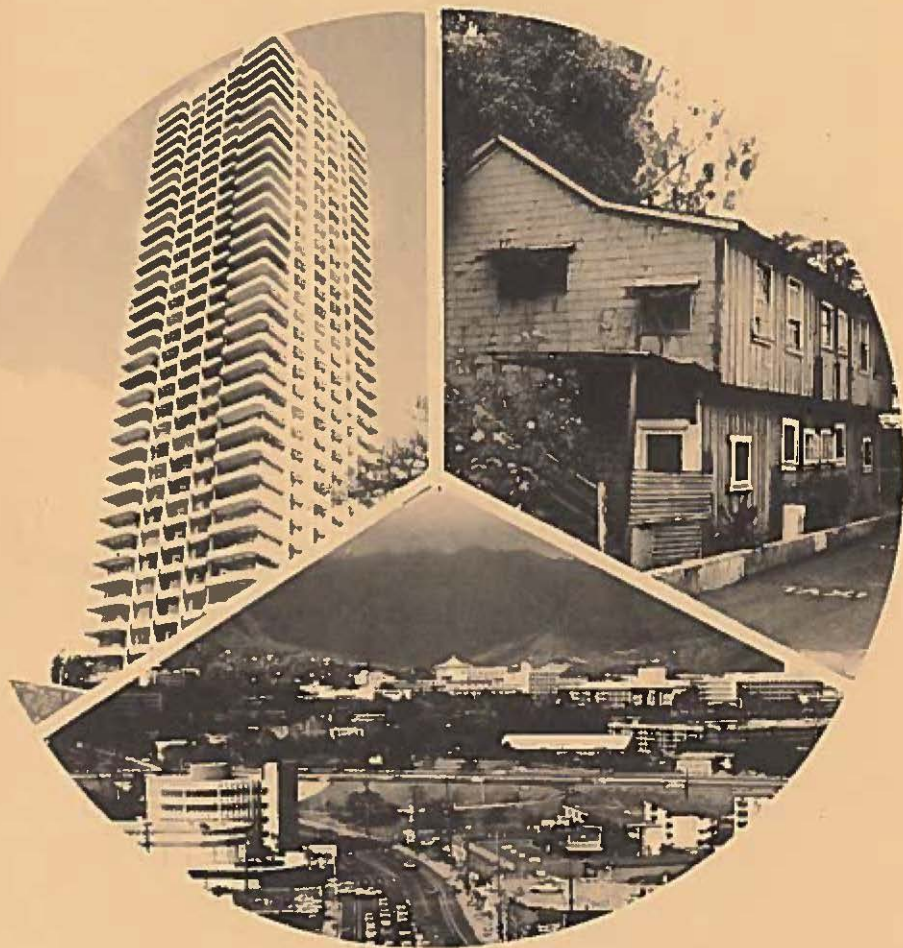


Moiliili



Walking Tour

MOILIILI*

Moiliili, a part of the Honolulu district, was once a marsh-land area of fresh water ponds, lotus farms, rice fields, and small shops. The multi-ethnic community presently has the second highest density in the State. Moiliili, pressed by the University on one side and Waikiki on the other, is in a period of transition, facing rapid change.

The Moiliili Walking Tour is co-sponsored by the 3-M (McCully-Moiliili-lower Manoa) Community Council and the University of Hawaii Campus Center Board as part of the April, 1977 conference: "The University Community Plan: Ten Years Later." The walking tour is a supplement to conference and community discussions and will provide insight and understanding of Moiliili's past, present, and future. The route (see centerfold map) contrasts old and new Moiliili.

YESTERDAY . . .

King Lunalilo held most of the Kamoiliili-Kapaakea lands during the 19th century. Queen Kamamalu's summer cottages were located on the banks of Kapaakea Springs where The Willows now stands. Royalty enjoyed swimming in the waters that were believed to have had healing powers. An unobstructed view of Diamond Head could be seen from every vantage point.

By the turn of the century, however, Moiliili, a quiet rural wetland area of fresh water streams and ponds had become a haven, first, for Chinese immigrant workers disenchanted with the sugar plantations, and later, for the Japanese. Both groups turned to farming rice and operating small businesses.

The stone quarry provided employment for many laborers. The Magoons and Bishops, the chief landowners, parceled and leased lands. Dirt trails connected the wooden-frame homes dotting the landscape. The community built public schools and a Japanese language school. Small shops along King Street served the needs of the growing community.

Major modes of transportation included street cars, horse-and-buggies, and bicycles. The variety of peoples blended their many religions and customs into a strong, active, and closely knit community.



* Moiliili gets its name from the Hawaiian words "mo'o" (lizard) and "ili'ili" (pebble). Legend says that where the Contessa now stands Kamapua'a, a pig or lizard demi-god, was conquered by Hi'iaka, a younger sister of Pele, and broken up into many little pebbles and one large rock.



TODAY . . .

Moiliili has undergone tremendous change since that time. The area was rezoned from agricultural to urban in the 1950's. High-rise apartments and condominiums, and new commercial enterprises have changed the face of Moiliili. The area supports a population of over 23,000, a figure which is expected to double by 1985.

Educational institutions now account for almost one-quarter of the net land use in the 3-M (McCully-Moiliili-lower Manoa) area. The University of Hawaii, partially located in the old quarry, has become the major employer.

Moiliili's unique character has been shaped by the people who have lived and worked there. This Walking Tour highlights some of the distinctive features and the major changes that occurred over the years.

How have these changes altered the quality of life in Moiliili? Have the changes been beneficial or harmful? Change is constant but the direction of future changes rests with the residents and working people willing to get involved in planning for their community and in taking action to influence the course of future development.

1. MOILIILI COMMUNITY CENTER



Moiliili Community Center stands on land which housed Kihachi Kashiwabara's Japanese Language School.

Originally, classes were held in his home in the late 1800's where Star Market is now located. In 1902, community funds provided for completion of new language school buildings, some of which still stand adjacent to the Community Center.

The property was turned over to the Moiliili Community Association in 1945 to prevent government confiscation during World War II. The Association provided a central meeting place for clubs and hobby classes. Language classes resumed in 1948.

While the name of the Association was changed to Moiliili Community Center in 1965, the major goals have remained the same: to promote healthy social, recreational, and educational services and activities for the community.

2. MOILIILI TRIANGLE MINI-PARK

Across the street from the Moiliili Community Center was the original site of Kashiwabara's Japanese Language School. Star Market, built after World War II, is now located in that area.

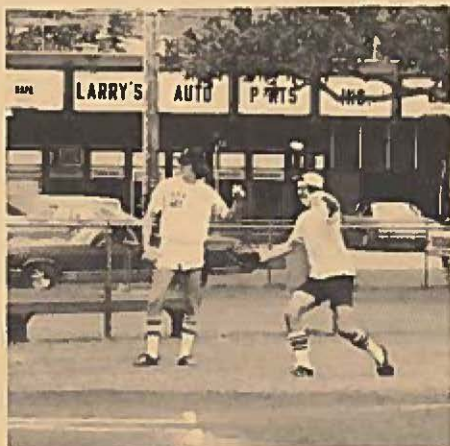
Two banyan trees that are over 60 years old shade a grassy area where old and young pause in a small oasis fronting the traffic-congested intersection of King and Beretania Streets.



3. MOILIILI FIELD

Moiliili Field has been a park for as long as old-timers can remember. In the past, circuses, bazaars, and baseball games were held there.

Babe Ruth, on one of his trips to Hawaii, is said to have slammed a couple of home runs out of this field. Today, the park remains a green-belt area still used primarily for baseball games.



4. SOUTH YOUNG STREET

Three years ago the residents of South Young Street (between McCully and Isenberg Streets) were faced with a City street-widening project which could have destroyed their neighborhood.

A six-foot loss of property frontage was in store for Young Street residents; for Kemole, Poha, and Hoawa Lane residents, twenty feet would have been taken. Sidewalks on their doorsteps or lost homes and garages would have been the result.

The street and drainage "improvements" would have cost the average land-owner \$21,000. It would have been impossible for many citizens, especially senior citizens on fixed incomes, to pay these amounts.

Street-widening was designed to enhance the area's B-2 commercial zoning. This zoning prevents residents from rebuilding or conducting major repairs. Essentially, residents would pay for improvements which would eventually force them from their homes.

Community spirit was stirred; the residents rallied and organized the South Young Street Residents Association to successfully fight the City plan.

Since then, many members of the Association have become increasingly active in community affairs. They were instrumental in the Stadium Park issue and participate in events which affect the 3-M area. The Association continues to press for rezoning which will allow homes and apartments to be rebuilt or repaired.

Young Street: an example of people working together for the good of the community.





5. OLD STADIUM/NEW PARK

Prior to 1926, this area housed kiawe trees, a herd of cattle, a few homes, and honey bees. Then, the Honolulu Stadium was built and 50 years of high school and University sports events, Hula Bowls, Islander baseball games, stock car races, Boy Scout Makahikis, bon dances, and other festivities followed.

Beginning in 1973, the 3-M Community Council led a community-wide struggle to convert the soon-to-be-demolished Stadium into a public park. The need for a park was clear: the crowded 3-M area had only 1.3 acres of park space per thousand residents, while the Department of Parks and Recreation standards call for three acres per thousand residents.

Because of the community's hard work and united efforts, the eight acres of Stadium land were condemned and purchased by the State for over eight million dollars. The "Termite Palace" was demolished in January 1976. Community people fought hard for and won the new park. Their success demonstrates what can be achieved by people working together toward a common goal.





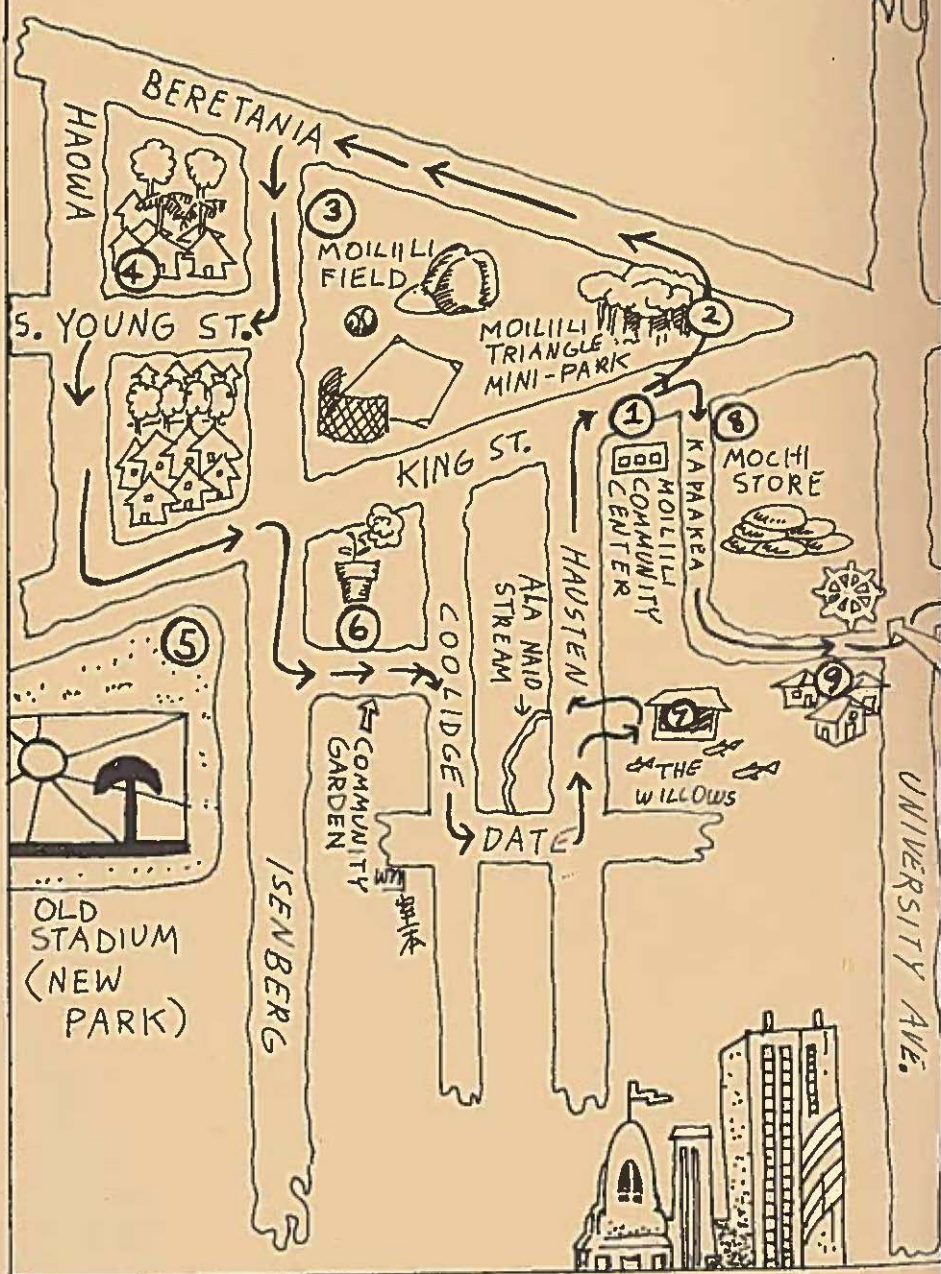
6. COMMUNITY GARDEN

City plans to build a road on this small strip of land were not implemented. Then, through the initiative and organization of the 3-M Community Council, the Mayor's Beautification Program agreed to co-sponsor the garden.

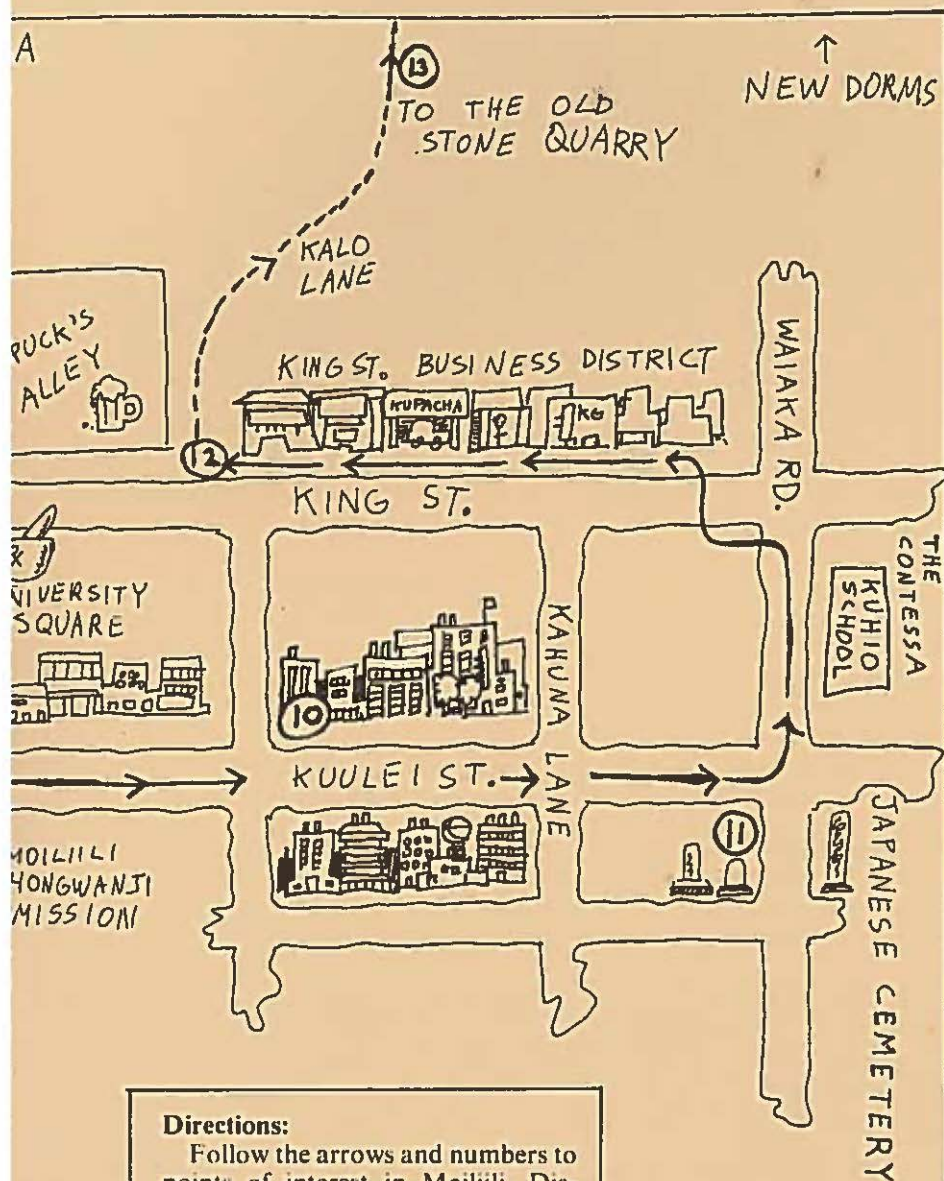
Since January 1976, approximately 70-80 gardeners have grown flowers and vegetables for home use, relaxation, and enjoyment. Keeping a garden puts the "city farmers" in touch with the land. At about 5:30 each evening, people of all ages can be seen tending their "farms," which serve as a source of community pride.



TO MA
VALLEY



A



7 TO
7 WAIKIRI





7. THE WILLOWS

Across the street from The Willows runs Ala Naio stream. At the curve was once a large duck pond which was a favorite swimming hole for the whole community as well as a place to wash clothes.

After World War II, the Husten family opened The Willows restaurant on the family homestead which was formerly the site of Queen Kamamalu's summer cottage.

Mr. Husten was a retired Navy officer and Mrs. Emma Kaleimoku Ai Husten was a school teacher. She planted the lush tropical gardens and the willow trees.

Colorful carp have long frolicked in the natural springs which flowed through old underground lava tubes, since sealed, between the quarry and the homestead. Today, The Willows with its thatched roof and lush tropical flora offers a charm and hospitality reminiscent of an earlier era.



8. MOILIILI MOCHI & CANDIES STORE

At one time the property upon which the mochi store now stands belonged to the German Consulate. According to old-timers, the area between the mochi store and Kuni Dry Goods was known as "German Town." A large, lovely mansion surrounded by a wrought iron fence stood on the property.

During World War I, the Consulate was confiscated. The land was then converted into housing for Japanese workers. They shared large community kitchen facilities including a water pump and wood-burning stoves.

9. KAPAAKEA LANE

Tucked in between towering high-rises and neighborhood stores is Kapaakea Lane, reminiscent of an earlier Moiliili with its single family houses, well-kept tiny gardens, and quiet air.

Years ago this lane was the main access from King Street to the homes behind the present Community Center. A number of families kept vegetable gardens and raised pigs.



The present mochi store offers a fine variety of traditional-style Japanese mochi, candies, cookies, and crackers.

Sumo wrestling matches were held there. One resident remembers that local wrestlers were not as big as those brought from Japan. Today, Kapaakea Lane serves as a reminder of how Moiliili used to be.

Moiliili Hongwanji Church which backs up on Kapaakea Lane has served the area's Buddhists since 1906. The present building was constructed in 1960.





10. KUULEI STREET

A walk down Kuulei Street, a maze of modern high-rise apartments and condominiums, demonstrates changes that have taken place in Moiliili. This area formerly contained wooden houses for families and bungalows for bachelors. Peddlers carried their wares through the community in baskets slung over bamboo poles, and filled the air with cries of, "Crackers! Candy! Manapua!"

11. JAPANESE CEMETERY

Further down Kuulei Street on the right is a crowded Japanese cemetery. Many of Moiliili's early Japanese residents are buried here.

Towering nearby is the Contessa, standing where a graveyard and church used to be. When it was built, a number of Japanese graves were moved from that site to this cemetery. Some people were unhappy with the need to change the location of the graves and it has been said that the area is haunted by the spirits of the disturbed dead.

In 1968, a memorial monument was placed in this small cemetery to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Japanese immigration to Hawaii.





12. KING STREET BUSINESS DISTRICT

This section of King Street has always been a business area. In the past, the makai side of the street had two bakeries, a tailor shop, a butcher shop, a tofu store, and general stores which mainly served the many single working men. On the mauka side, hasu (lotus) farms were replaced by a piggery, a sumo wrestling ring, and an outdoor theatre which showed weekend movies and "shibai" (live theatre) from Japan.

Today, the new Puck's Alley complex caters primarily to University and high school students with its modern eateries and boutiques, and sharply contrasts with the older shops and businesses just up the street. Between the Puck's Alley parking garage and the flower shops runs a small lane filled with old-fashioned wooden houses. At certain times of the day, the smell of wood burning to heat water for the furo (Japanese style bath) permeates the air.

This ends the Walking Tour of Moiliili.





13. THE OLD STONE QUARRY (OPTIONAL)

At the turn of the century, the stone quarry operated where the University of Hawaii's sports fields, parking structure, classrooms, and new dorms are. Former Mayor John Wilson was at one time a part-owner of the quarry. The quarry was the area's major employer.

Stone masons fashioned blocks used to construct many downtown Honolulu buildings. Old-time residents complained about the "quarry dust" clouds which used to hang thick and heavy over Moiliili, dirtying people's laundry and homes.

Honolulu Construction and Dredging (HC&D) owned and operated the quarry until the late 1940's when it was closed and taken over by the University of Hawaii.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

"University Community Plan: Ten Years Later" Conference
Co-Sponsors: 3-M Community Council
University of Hawaii Campus Center Board

Special Thanks to:

Sam Kagesa	Russel Nagata
Sam Kekina	Mrs. J.M. Tanaka
Edna Kelly	Harry Yoshimura

Brochure Prepared by
University of Hawaii Ethnic Studies Oral History Project

For More Information:

3-M Community Council
2535 S. King
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
955-1555

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Hawaii Committee for the Humanities, A State-based Program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.